

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 RSR-01 /082 W

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R 030010 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 659

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1893

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING WHITLAM'S TRAVEL
PLANS

REF: A) CANBERRA 1759 B) CANBERRA 1677

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO BE
INTERESTED IN SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE WHITLAM VISIT TO
WASHINGTON LATER IN YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. MODERATE INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER
VISITING WASHINGTON LATER IN YEAR HAS CONTINUED IN
AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT AND PRESS. IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MARCH 29 WHICH
MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE GIVEN IN
REF B, PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS.
WHITLAM RESPONDED HE HAD NOT SEEN THE STORY AND NOTED
THAT THE QUESTIONER (DONALD CAMERON, LIBERAL FROM QUEENS-
LAND) HAD NOT VERIFIED STORY. WHITLAM THEN STATED
STORY COULD NOT BE VERIFIED BECAUSE IT WAS A " FABRICATION".

3. ON MARCH 30 DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN
GAVE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO PRESS: " THE
SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID TODAY
THAT NO APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERN-
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MENT TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT WASHINGTON. THE QUESTION OF A 'REJECTION' OR A 'SNUB' DID NOT THEREFORE ARISE.

" THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT SOUGHT AN INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON HE HOPED TO HAVE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND OTHER AMERICAN LEADERS LATER IN THE YEAR."

4. SPECULATION IN PRESS CONTINUES DESPITE ABOVE STATEMENTS. IN TWO SEPARATE ARTICLES ON SUBJECT APPEARING IN SYDNEY MORNING HERALD AND AUSTRALIAN AGE OF MARCH 31, ROY MACARTNEY MENTIONS THREE MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ABOUT RENEWED BOMBING WHICH HE REPORTS ANGERED WASHINGTON IN JANUARY, AND ALSO INDICATES WASHINGTON IS CONCERNED OVER APPARENT "LEAKS" FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ON SUBJECT. IN BOTH STORIES MCARTNEY STATES TWO "LEAKS" ARE CAUSING IRRITATION. HE STATES THESE ARE THE INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS A STRONG U. S. PROTEST TO MR. WHITLAM OVER THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS' PERSONAL ATTACKS ON MR. NIXON AND THAT IT WAS LEAKED TO THE PRESS IN CANBERRA THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD TOLD THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE PRESIDENT DISDAINED" TO REPLY TO MR. WHITLAM' S BOMBING PROTEST. MCARTNEY ENDS HIS ARTICLES WITH THE SENTENCE, " WASHINGTON IS NOT EXACTLY A TIGHT- LIPPED TOWN BUT ITS OFFICIALDOM FEELS CANBERRA IS LEAKING LIKE THE PROBIAL SIEVE." RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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